Crow wins street stock race

7-16-8

By GARY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

Pole-sitter Rick Crow of Canyon Country led from start to finish Saturday night to win the 25-lap oval main event for street stocks during the Winston Racing Series program at Saugus Speedway.

Sepulveda's Russ Beckers finished six car-lengths back and Simi Valley's Craig Rayburn took third as a crowd of 3,674 looked on.

Simi Valley's Dale White Jr. and Steve Nickolai were unofficially fourth and fifth, followed by Ventura's John Kirby.

Sue Pittinato's discouraging weekend resumed on lap 13 of the feature when her car was forced into the wall at the end of the main stretch by two other vehicles.

Tom Eurton of Valencia spun across the track into Pittinato after he collided with Newbury Park's Tracy Lee.

On Friday night, Pittinato's car was badly damaged when Port Hueneme's Jim Firsich lost control and sent the West Hills' driver into the wall at Ventura Raceway.

Only Lee was able to resume racing Saturday night, but she spun again on the restart and remained parked in the infield.

Arleta's Brian Kelley moved into the season points lead for hobby stock drivers by winning the division's 25-lap oval main event. He also won the 15-lap figure-8 feature.

The top six cars — Kelley, Reseda's Thad Friday, West Hills' Shannon Flavin, Castaic's Larry Leis, Reseda's Jim Gunnarson and Northridge's Jeff Drummen — finished the oval feature in the same order they started.

Burbank's Scott Wade, who entered the night with a two-point lead over Kelley, was seventh after starting 11th.

Kelley, along with Sepulveda's Jim Kusch, were called into the infield for an official's inspection on the 17th lap when their cars began to display excessive smoke. Both rejoined the field without losing their positions.

The race also was red-lighted twice when cars in the back of the pack stalled on the track.

Palmdale's Rick Bonifield won the 12-lap oval main event for jalopies, despite a last lap run-in with Russ Wolff of Mission Hills.

Wolff, who led the claimers' feature for 11 laps, spun when his car hit a wet spot in turn 2. Bonifield's car slammed head-on into Wolff's machine, but he was able to recover and went on to take the win.

Earlier in the evening, Bonifield captured the four-lap trophy dash for jalopies and Wolff took the eight-lap heat race.